

From: Edward Mills
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

An Independent User Voice - not lobbied by anyone speaks.

My opinion is that the previous decision to split Microsoft was TOO LENIENT and the current proposed settlement is an insult to any and all who do not own Microsoft stock. I have been a PC user since the early days and have watched Microsoft manipulate the previous settlement on DOS into a joke. They killed Netscape, and before that Wordperfect, and Lotus123, and Quattro Pro which was clearly technically superior to Excel, and before that DR DOS. They have almost delayed this decision till it is moot as the release of Windows XP has already occurred. The proposal to distribute FREE or discounted software is no remedy but rather a well thought out anti-competitive ploy in itself. The best way to secure future use is to get the kids hooked - the tobacco industry and alcohol industry know this and software is even more perverse in that it is legal to promote your product to schools in hope that users will not want to migrate to a different system. Apple knows this and their last hold was that many educational entities still use Mac systems. The proposal would take this one hold away from the only real competitor Microsoft has not completely killed. As a minimum, Microsoft must be made to pay back users who were harmed and not in discount certificates; also they should be broken up into 2 or 3 companies representing Operating Systems, Applications, and Internet. Further their ownership of distribution of information networks should be curbed and they should be restricted to current business applications with proposals for expansion subject to oversight by a court master.

I am sure that this is in the minority as Microsoft lobbies effectively by many means including mass e-mail campaigns.